



Sovereign Grace Church

March 17th, 2024

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

*“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not
be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength
and my song, He also is become my salvation.”*

(Isaiah 12:2)

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Sovereign Grace Church

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If God had, or could espy [or catch sight of] the least speck or [delinquency] in Him, the least inclination or propensity to sin, He had not then been a meet sacrifice to take away sin: no, no, there was no such thing as sin in Him, and therefore He was made our *sin offering* and *trespass offering* (Leviticus 6:17), He was made *sin* and *guilt* for us; and though thus made sin by the constitution and appointment of the Father, yet He was, [the most holy, indeed] the holiness of holinesses [Leviticus 6:17]. Thus the burnt-offering was most holy, as the sin, and as the guilt-offering; that is, nothing, nay, God Himself was not more holy than our blessed Jesus, God-man, made sin for us: though it be a mystery beyond human comprehension, yet it is a plain truth of divine revelation, that He that knew no sin was made sin; and in the exceeding riches of God's grace therein, let us rejoice and triumph. "*For [God] hath made [His dear Son] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

— J. Gadsby

Welcome

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect church, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's *undeserved* grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

Announcements

Happy Birthday!

Bobby Luman, March 20th

Sandra Murphy, March 29th

Resources

VISIT our website for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

Grace Articles

The Believer's Blessedness

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..." (Titus 3:5)

IT is the believer's blessedness, that each glorious person in the Godhead has a glorious hand in his salvation. God the Father saved, chose, sanctified, or set him apart, in Christ, before the world was; God the Son took humanity into union to His personal Godhead, and thus became incarnate, lived a holy life, suffered, bled, died a solemn death, rose again from the dead, ascended up on high, having led captivity captive, and is now exalted at the right hand of the Father, ever living to make intercession for him. Thus Christ has meritoriously saved the elect by His life, obedience, death, resurrection, exaltation, and intercession: as it is written, *"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?—Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."* (Romans 8:32-34). Thus the blessed Redeemer, *"was delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification"* (Romans 4:25); and, bless His precious name, He has been the destruction of death, hell, and sin [1 Corinthians 15:55-57]. The gloriously-blessed God-Man Mediator *"gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works"* (Titus 2:14). So that, before the world was, the church was saved purposely by God the Father; in time, meritoriously by the God-Man Mediator, who now lives above to make intercession for them; and, in the day of God's power, they are saved manifestatively and vitally, by the *"washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost"* (Titus 3:5) [Psalm 110:3].

Now, not a particle of this is either for, or according to, their works; for it is *"not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us;"* or, as our text has it, *"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works..."* (2 Timothy 1:9).

What an indescribable mercy it is that salvation is of the LORD; yea, that God Himself, as the God of Zion, is our salvation. Blessed, triumphant faith, under the sweet power and unction of God the Holy Ghost, can at times sweetly sing, *"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song, He also is become my salvation."* (Isaiah 12:2.) This salvation contains a complete deliverance from every foe, and soul-damning danger, and it is a complete salvation to every real good. We have all spiritual blessings in Christ, all bliss and blessedness secured in Him; for it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell. He is full of grace and truth; and of His fulness we receive, and grace for grace. All things are the real believer's, for he is Christ's, and Christ is God's; and, as I said before, this glorious salvation is all of grace, not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9).

— A Solider

Christ Made Sin

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

MARK..., how the business is carried on by way of exchange; Christ made sin, and we righteousness! Christ is dealt with as the sinner in law, and we are pronounced as righteous before God; our Surety is to bear our punishment, and is to be accepted as pleasing and acceptable to God; thus by a wonderful exchange He taketh our evil things upon Himself, that He might bestow His good things upon us.

He took from us misery, that He might convey to us mercy; He was made a curse for us, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon us by faith, Galatians 3:13, 14; He suffered death that He might convey life; took our sin upon Himself, that He might impart to us His righteousness.

This exchange agreeth in this, that, on both sides, something not merited by the person himself is transferred upon them. What more averse from the holy nature of Christ than sin? He knew no sin, and yet is made sin. What more alien and strange on our part than righteousness, who are [in] so many ways [guilty]? yet we are made the righteousness of God in Him.

This is by no error of judgment, but the wise contrivance, ordination, and appointment of God, that by something done by another it should be imputed and esteemed to that other, as if done in His own person. So, for our sin was death imposed upon Christ, as if He had been the sinner; and for Christ's righteousness, life and the heavenly inheritance is bestowed upon us, as if we had fulfilled the law, and satisfied it in our own person.

But here is the difference, our sins are imputed to Christ out of God's justice, He being our Surety; His righteousness is imputed to us out of God's mercy. Our sin was transferred upon Him, that He might abolish it or take it away; for He came to take away sin, 1 John 3:5.

His righteousness was imputed to us, that it might continue as an everlasting ground of our acceptance with God, therefore He is said to 'finish transgression, and to make a end of sin, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in an everlasting righteousness.' [Daniel 9:24]

The virtue of His righteousness is never spent, it abideth for ever. He was made a curse for us, that this curse might be dissolved and swallowed up, but His blessing is derived to us, that it may abide and continue with us to all eternity.

He took our filthy rags, that He might throw them into the depth of the sea; but we have the garment of our Elder Brother, that we might put it on, and minister in it before the Lord, and find grace in His sight [Genesis 3:21].

— Thomas Manton